

# BRIEFLY

## TECHNOLOGY

### Samsung in Talks to Sell AST to Alagem

Samsung Electronics Co., one of the world's largest semiconductor makers, said it is in talks to sell its AST Research Inc. personal computer business in the U.S. to **Packard Bell** founder Beny Alagem. Samsung Electronics, the flagship of **Samsung Group**, South Korea's second-largest conglomerate, wants to stop the losses stemming from the computer business it bought in 1995, said an unnamed Samsung Group general manager. The Samsung spokesman wouldn't comment more on the talks with Alagem, who resigned from Packard Bell last summer amid clashes with shareholders **NEC Corp.** and **Groupe Bull**. AST, an Irvine-based computer producer, has long been a drain on earnings. AST lost \$350 million in 1997, its last public statement on earnings, extending its losing streak to five years. (*Bloomberg News*)